

## **5 FAM 540**

# **VOICE RADIO SYSTEMS**

(TL:IM-36; 12-09-2002)  
(Office of Origin: IRM/APR/RG)

## **5 FAM 541 RADIO POLILCIES**

(TL:IM-36; 12-09-2002)

a. All radio networks and their use by U.S. Government personnel in a foreign country (except those personnel under the command of a U.S. area military commander) are under the authority and direction of the chief of mission (COM) in accordance with 22 U.S.C. 3927. This section does not pertain to radio stations operated by or allied with the Broadcast Board of Governors (BBG).

b. Heads of agencies other than DOS must obtain COM approval before obligating funds to acquire new radio networks or to make major changes to existing networks. A major change is defined as altering an existing radio network in size or technical characteristics enough to require the host government to re-license, issue new frequencies, or to increase the traffic affecting network access by current users.

c. The Vienna Conventions on Diplomatic and Consular Relations and customary international law require host country consent before installing and using wireless transmitters. The COM or a designee will consult with the host government to obtain consent, and, where practicable, obtain specific frequencies from the host government to ensure interference-free radio use. (See 5 FAM H-542.1, H-543, and H-544.)

d. All agencies under the authority and direction of the COM must participate in post emergency action plan networks unless the COM determines that an agency is not required to participate.

e. See 5 FAH-2, *Telecommunications*, for procedures on procuring, installing, maintaining, repairing, and operationally testing voice radios.

f. For security and separation requirements for operating radio equipment in controlled access areas (CAAs), see 12 FAH-6 H-311.7, H-312.7, and H-314.7, *Unclassified Electrical/Electronic Equipment*.

## **5 FAM 542 RADIO PROGRAM RESPONSIBILITIES**

### **5 FAM 542.1 IRM/M/CST/LD**

(TL:IM-36; 12-09-2002)

IRM/M/CST/LD coordinates reciprocity issues for the foreign affairs community with DS/OFM and with DS/DSS/OP when agreements involve emergency or security networks. IRM/M/CST/LD in coordination with post, bureau, and RIMC also prepares and coordinates interagency agreements relating to new radio networks and major changes to existing networks, and their use.

### **5 FAM 542.2 Information Management Officer (IMO)/Information Programs Officer (IPO)**

(TL:IM-36; 12-09-2002)

The IMO or IPO is the embassy's focal point for all radio matters. The responsibilities of the IMO or IPO include:

(1) Managing all Department HF, UHF and/or VHF radio systems and providing guidance to users of other radio systems under the authority and direction of the COM as required to maintain emergency and evacuation (E&E) network and administrative network discipline and operational efficiency, notwithstanding the ownership of these systems. Routine testing of the E&E network is addressed in 5 FAM 542.3. The IMO/IPO may also be required to consult with host government authorities for operating licenses and frequency approvals;

(2) Providing radio operating procedures and maintenance guidance to radio equipment users;

(3) For systems funded by other agencies, assures that the agencies have provided all users and the IMO/IPO with information and operator instructions to isolate and correct faults when an agency's radio assets cause existing post or host country networks to degrade;

(4) Determining test schedules and procedures for administrative networks, and high frequency networks, and;

(5) Is the area custodian of IRM property, and ensures inventories and controls are in place and followed. (See 6 FAM 220, *Personal Property Management for Posts Abroad*.)

### **5 FAM 542.3 Regional Security Officer (RSO)/Post Security Officer (PSO)**

*(TL:IM-36; 12-09-2002)*

The RSO or PSO is responsible for ensuring that appropriate unclassified electrical/electronic security standards and Department policies are implemented.

(1) The RSO administers the local guard force (LGF) radio program.

(2) The RSO is also responsible for conducting required testing and radio checks for the local E&E network. The objective of Emergency and Evacuation (E&E) net testing is to insure reliable communications by American U.S. mission members between official facilities or building compounds, the alternate command center and the primary evacuation point as stated in the Emergency Action Plan.

### **5 FAM 542.4 Wireless Services Branch (IRM/OPS/ITI/TWD/WLS)**

*(TL:IM-36; 12-09-2002)*

The Wireless Services Branch (IRM/OPS/ITI/TWD/WLS) is the Department's program manager for voice radio systems (whether leased or U.S. Government-owned), except for systems owned and operated by other agencies, or provided to, and operated by, host governments.

### **5 FAM 542.5 Regional Information Management Center (RIMC)**

*(TL:IM-36; 12-09-2002)*

The RIMC provides direct technical and operational support to each COM within its geographic area of responsibility. RIMC provides guidance, installation and maintenance support for emergency action plan networks. Post or bureau funded (administrative) systems are the responsibility of the post or bureau. The RIMC may provide technical guidance regarding post or bureau funded systems such as reviewing post and contractor equipment specifications and technical plans, to ensure compliance with the Department's established radio program standards and specifications. The RIMC also provides technical advice and guidance to the COM with regard to other agency systems.

## **5 FAM 543 RECIPROCITY FOR SHORT RANGE RADIO SYSTEMS**

*(TL:IM-36; 12-09-2002)*

United States law prohibits licensing foreign governments or their representatives to operate short-range radio systems. Employees must not offer reciprocity in return for introducing and using short-range UHF and/or VHF radio systems at posts abroad. Foreign governments may subscribe to commercially offered cellular radio services in the United States. Foreign governments may also enter into commercial arrangements with U.S. firms licensed to provide, for example, security guard or motor pool services. These firms hold the necessary licenses and their U.S. employees operate the radios (including radios on embassy or consulate grounds).

## **5 FAM 544 RECIPROCITY FOR LONG RANGE RADIO SYSTEMS**

*(TL:IM-36; 12-09-2002)*

United States law permits a foreign mission, in special circumstances and based on reciprocity, to construct and operate a fixed low-power transmitter in Washington, DC for communications to points outside the United States. Permission requires the approval of both the Secretary of State and the Secretary of Commerce. These installations must respect local zoning, land use planning, historic preservation, structural codes and similar building regulations. For information on obtaining host country consent, contact IRM/M/CST/LD/EA.

## **5 FAM 545 RADIO FUNDING**

*(TL:IM-36; 12-09-2002)*

a. Radio systems may be owned or leased. Emergency action plan radio requirements are prioritized through the Department's budgetary process to obtain IRM central funding. (See 5 FAH-2.) Funding for administrative radios is the responsibility of posts and bureaus. Funding and maintenance for the local guard force radio (LGF) program is the responsibility of DS. Contact DS/PSP/FPD for assistance.

b. All proposals relating to introducing new radio systems or making major changes to existing systems must be coordinated with the COM or his or her designee and the Department (IRM/M/CST/LD) in consultation with the RIMC.

c. RIMC, RSO, and IRM/OPS/ITI/TWD/WLS provide technical guidance and validation based on applicable Federal standards and life cycle support. Life cycle support for administrative radio systems and local guard force radio systems are the responsibility of the post or bureau.

d. Radio systems funded and operated by other agencies are the property of the funding agency. Individual agencies are responsible for installation, life cycle support, and equipment accountability. However, the installation and use of all systems are subject to procedures and/or restrictions established by the COM.

## **5 FAM 546 THROUGH 5 FAM 549 UNASSIGNED**